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Approved For Release 2004/06/29 : CIA-RDP85T00875R000700015014-5et

OCI CFDEV 73-5-4



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Cease-Fire Developments

Secret

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4 May 1973

Cease-Fire Developments

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CAMBODIA

The Military Situation

Khmer Communist forces surrounded a small government unit in the Route 5 area some 30 miles northwest of Phnom Penh on 3 May, and fighting is reported to be heavy. Efforts to relieve the isolated unit have so far been unsuccessful. Elsewhere, the Communists continue to harass government defensive positions around the village of Tram Khnar south of Phnom Penh and the provincial capital of Takeo farther to the south. Takeo was shelled by 105-mm. howitzers for the second day in a row on 4 May.

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LAOS

The Military Situation

From 27 April to 3 May military activity increased very slightly over the previous week's all-time low. A series of clashes occurred southeast of Thakhek in the central panhandle as a government force began an operation to retake positions near Mahaxay that were lost earlier this month. More skirmishing can be expected as the government troops advance eastward. Only minor incidents were reported elsewhere as accommodations were worked out between local commanders in several new areas and old accommodations held up well in other areas. Lao tactical aircraft flew 90 combat missions during the seven-day period.

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4 May 1973